

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01843 01 OF 02 221143Z  
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 /019 W  
-----017236 221200Z /14  
P 220708Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8140

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1843

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LIMDIS

FOR AF HARROP FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, US, ET  
SUBJ: AGREEMENT FOR NEW US AMBASSADOR WITHIN TWO WEEKS?

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1586

1. JOSEPH KRAFT CAME TO BREAKFAST APRIL 22 TO REPORT ON HIS DISCUSSION PREVIOUS AFTERNOON WITH ACTING FONMIN BERHANU DINKA, THE ONLY PMGSE OFFICIAL OF ANY STANDING WHOM HE GOT TO SEE DURING FULL WEEK'S STAY HERE. MOST INTERESTING ITEM WAS THAT BERHANU ASSURED KRAFT AGREEMENT FOR NEW US AMBASSADOR WOULD BE GRANTED "WITHIN TWO WEEKS."

2. KRAFT RAISED SUBJECT OF AGREEMENT AND ASKED POINTEDLY WHY IT HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED AFTER WAIT OF OVER TWO AND A HALF MONTHS. BERHANU GRANTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER FELLEKE HAD TOLD AARON AND YOU IN FEBRUARY THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE GRANTED "NEXT WEEK" BUT USED OLD LINE THAT AGREEMENT QUESTIONS ARE HANDLED BY ANOTHER PART OF MOFA "BUREAUCRACY AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRINCIPAL AIDES HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GIVE MATTER THEIR PERSONAL ATTENTION SINCE THEY WERE BUSY WITH  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 01843 01 OF 02 221143Z

SO MANY IMPORTANT MATTERS. BERHANU THEN CITED EXAMPLES OF AGREEMENTS FOR MEXICAN AND IVORY COAST AMBASSADORS WHICH HAD TAKEN MOFA "BUREAUCRACY" MUCH LONGER TO GRANT. IVORY COAST AGREEMENT HAD COME THROUGH ONLY AFTER SOMEONE IN GOIC (KRAFT DID NOT SPECIFY) HAD WRITTEN BERHANU HIMSELF A "VERY ANGRY LETTER." IN RESPONSE TO KRAFT'S QUESTION OF WHETHER PMGSE EQUATES COUNTRIES LIKE IVORY COAST WITH US, BERHANU "FROWNED"

AND STATED SIMPLY THAT IVORY COAST IS IMPORTANT COUNTRY TO ETHIOPIA. CONVERSATION ON THIS SUBJECT ENDED WHEN BERHANU ASSURED KRAFT THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE GRANTED WITHIN "NEXT TWO WEEKS."

3. BERHANU'S STATEMENT ABOUT BUREAUCRATIC HOLD-UP JIBES WITH MAJOR DAWIT'S AND BERHANE DERESSE'S STATEMENTS TO ME BUT CERTAINLY NOT RPT NOT WITH WHAT WAIYAKI SAID DIRG MEMBER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAJOR BERHANU BAYEH TOLD HIM, I.E., THAT MATTER OF AGREEMENT FOR US AMBASSADOR WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN NEXT DIRG MEETING, WHICH HAS, OF COURSE, LONG SINCE PASSED. ALTHOUGH IT IS CLEAR THAT DECISION WILL BE A POLITICAL ONE, IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER IT WILL BE TAKEN IN LIGHT OF PURELY BILATERAL RELATIONS OR WITHIN BROADER CONTEXT OF PMGSE RELATIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES.

4. IN THIS REGARD, FELLEKE HAD TOLD DEPARTING FRENCH AMBASSADOR BARBIER THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE AGREEMENT FOR NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR BEFORE BARBIER'S DEPARTURE, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 25, AS BARBIER HAD SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED. BARBIER HAD ALSO REQUESTED EXIT APPOINTMENT WITH MENGISTU. HOWEVER, WHEN MENGISTU, FELLEKE AND OTHERS DEPARTED FOR HAVANA ON APRIL 20, BARBIER WAS RESIGNED TO DEPARTING POST WITHOUT MEETING WITH MENGISTU OR AGREEMENT FOR SUCCESSOR. SUDDENLY, BERHANU DINKA CALLED BARBIER APRIL 21 AND ASKED HIM TO DELAY HIS DEPARTURE UNTIL AFTER MENGISTU'S RETURN, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 01843 01 OF 02 221143Z

SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27, BECAUSE ONE OF CHAIRMAN'S LAST COMMENTS WAS THAT HE WANTED TO SEE FRENCH AMBASSADOR. BARBIER, LIKE MOST SKEPTICS AROUND HERE, IS NOT SURE INTERVIEW WILL EVER TAKE PLACE BUT IS POSTPONING DEPARTURE ONE WEEK JUST IN CASE.

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01843 02 OF 02 221158Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 /019 W

-----017324 221159Z /11

P 220708Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8141

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1843

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LIMDIS

5. FINALLY, ANOTHER STRAW IN WIND IS LACK OF VITUPERATIVE  
OFFICIAL OR PRESS ATTACK ON SECRETARY VANCE FOR HIS LONDON  
STATEMENT ON ERITREA ALTHOUGH APRIL 22 EDITORIAL TAKES CENTO  
IN GENERAL TO TASK FOR ITS POSITION ON EXTRA-AFRICAN ASSIS-  
TANCE TO ETHIOPIA. ALSO, PMGSE HAS OBVIOUSLY MADE DECISION  
TO AVOID MAKING HERB MALIN A PUBLIC ISSUE.

6. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT COUNTING ON IT, POSSIBILITY EXISTS,  
THEREFORE, THAT PMGSE WILL SOON GRANT AGREEMENTS TO BOTH  
FRENCP AND US AMBASSADORS AT MORE OR LESY SAME TIME. AS  
MENTIONED PARA 11 REFTTEL, SIGNAL TO US WOULD BE STRONGLY  
NEGATIVE IF AGREEMENT IS GRANTED TO FRENCH AND NOT RPT NOT  
TO US. ALSO, IF AGREEMENT IS NOT NOTIFIED WITHIN THE TWO  
WEEKS SPECIFIED BY BERHANU DINKA, WE WILL HAVE WAITED FULL  
THIRTEEN WEEKS. SEPTTEL SUGGESTS REVIEW OF ETHIO-US RE-  
LATIONS WITH DAWIT DURING NEW YOUR VISIT NEXT WEEK.  
MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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